

April 25, 2003

Congressman Bennie Thompson
United States House of Representatives
910 Courthouse Lane
Greenville, Mississippi 38701

Dear Congressman Thompson:

Thank you for contacting me regarding the Hinds Street Baptist Church GED program application prepared by Bennie Ruth Parks and submitted to the Delta Regional Authority by Governor Musgrove with his support in August 2002. While the Governor and I have continued to urge approval of this worthwhile project, the Federal Co-Chairman and DRA staff have maintained their opposition to funding this proposal that they claim "duplicates other programs in the same county."

We appreciate your interest in Ms. Parks' organization and her application for funding through the Delta Regional Authority. We regret that the DRA has failed to approve the project at this juncture. Unfortunately, due to the structure of the DRA the collective vote of the alternates does not overcome a negative vote by the Federal Co-Chairman. It should be noted, however, that throughout the process Ms. Parks' application has had Governor Musgrove's full support.

Thank you again for your efforts to assist Ms. Parks. We will continue our efforts on behalf of Hinds Street Baptist Church and stand by our original favorable recommendation of their proposed GED program. If you have any questions or need further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Armerita Tell, Director
Office of Citizen and Community Services

cc: Ms. Bennie Ruth Parks